

D. Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants respectfully request continued examination and reconsideration of the instant application. The Office Action mailed June 14, 2007 maintained the rejection of claim 6 for indefiniteness and lack of written description.

As an initial matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephonic interview on August 10, 2007. As discussed, the incorporation of a sequence identifier into claim 6 and amendment of the specification to insert the corresponding sequence listing will overcome the indefiniteness and written description rejections of claim 6.

Upon entry of the amendments, claims 6 and 18 are pending. Claim 6 has been amended to insert a sequence identifier for human Sp17 identified by Lea et al. (1996), which is incorporated into the specification by reference in its entirety. *See* specification at page 14, lines 28-33. Support for new claim 18 can be found throughout the specification and/or claims as filed (*e.g.*, at least at page 6, lines 3-6; lines 8-16; lines 30-33; and Examples II and III). Thus, no new matter has been added.

The specification has been amended to reflect insertion of the sequence identifier to the human sperm protein 17, and to incorporate the Sequence Listing. Thus, no new matter has been added.

As previously indicated, the Examiner maintained the rejections of record based on indefiniteness and written description. *See* Office Action at pages 2 and 4. In view of the

amendments made herein, Applicants believe the rejections of claim 6 are overcome.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

To the extent that the rejections may be applied to new claim 18, Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would have a clear understanding of the language of the claim when read in light of the specification, such that the skilled artisan would have been able to make and use the claimed invention over its full scope as of the filing date of the instant application.

For instance, Example II of the specification indicates that human Sp17 protein is isolated from normal testicular RNA (*i.e.*, unvasectomized men), as men who undergo vasectomy spontaneously develop immune responses against Sp17 protein (*see* Example III), and then used to produce a recombinant protein. This protein is then used to pulse dendritic cells isolated from peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC), which are then used as antigen-presenting cells to prime T cells that can be used for target killing of Sp17+ tumor cells (*see* Examples III and IV). As indicated in Example III and IV, the PBMC can be autologous (*i.e.*, donor-derived to augment graft-versus-myeloma without inducing graft-versus-host disease in patients with multiple myeloma). Thus, the specificity of the cytotoxic T cells is based on the protein structure (whether there are polymorphisms or not) that the antigen-presenting cells (dendritic cells) have been pulsed with. As one of ordinary skill in the art knew the structure and characteristics of the human Sp17 protein, and knew how to isolate it as of the filing date of the instant application, the skilled artisan would have been able to make and use the claimed invention over its full scope as of the date of invention.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that this paper is fully responsive and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested. Should any questions or issues arise concerning the application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Without an extension of time, this response is due on or before September 14, 2007. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 08-1935, Reference No. 0410-009A.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 12, 2007

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles E. Bell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and contact information.

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